



Auburn Water Utility 2002 Water Quality Report

The Auburn Water Utility is proud to present you with our 2002 Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Changes to Federal regulations this year added monitoring requirements for twelve unregulated contaminants, and lowered the level of arsenic for which Auburn must test (we must test for smaller concentrations). This data is included in the water quality data table.

Our water comes from a combination of deep wells drawing water from below the City and springs located near the walls of the valley. The valley wells and springs serve customers in the valley, Lea Hill and the Forest Villa / Academy area. Two additional wells are located in the Lakeland Hills area and serve our customers south of the White River in the Lakeland Hills neighborhood. A small well serves our customers in the Braunwood area.



Required Health Information From The EPA

Health Issues

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Contaminants and Regulations

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants (contaminants are something in drinking water other than water). The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from septic systems, livestock, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, septic systems, or fertilizer use. Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants, can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations set limits for contaminants in bottled water that are intended to provide similar protection for public health.

The Auburn Water Utility is part of the Public Works Department, which receives oversight from the Public Works Committee of the Auburn City Council. Regular Committee meetings occur on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, at Auburn City Hall at 5:30 PM. The public is welcome to attend.

City of Auburn Water Utility
25 West Main
Auburn, WA 98001

Water Utility Information
Maintenance & Operations
Billing Information
Visit the City of Auburn Internet Site

(253) 931-3010
(253) 931-3066
(253) 931-3038
www.ci.auburn.wa.us

Other Information on Safe Drinking Water:

Washington State Dept. of Health
Environmental Protection Agency

www.doh.wa.gov/chp/dw
www.epa.gov/safewater



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For City of Auburn Water Customers

Water Quality Data Table

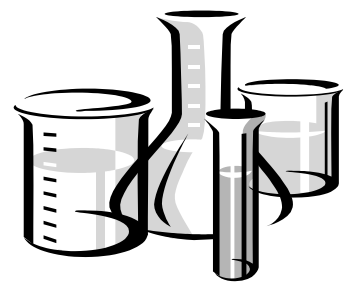
The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during 2002 (unless otherwise noted). The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA or the State allows Auburn to monitor for certain low risk contaminants less than once per year.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.



Parameter	Standards		Sample Results			Additional Information
	MCLG	MCL	Valley Wells and Springs	Lakeland Hills Wells	Braunwood Well	Typical Source/Comments
Inorganic Testing						
Asbestos (MFL)	7	7	ND – 1 (10/99)	Not Analyzed	Not Analyzed	Decay of asbestos cement water mains, natural deposits.
Arsenic (ppb)	None	50	ND – 3 Two sources that were not used in 2002 had levels of 13 and 10 ppb	3 – 7	3	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes. While your drinking water meets EPA’s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	ND – 3.7	ND – 0.5	0.2	Natural deposits, fertilizer, septic tanks.
Microbiological Testing						
Total Coliform (% Positive samples / month)	0	5%	ND	ND	2% (1 out of 52 samples)	Naturally present in the environment. Repeat samplings were satisfactory (no coliform present).
Volatile Organics Testing						
Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	ND – 1.9	ND	ND	Discharge from factories and dry cleaners.
Trichloroethylene (ppb)	0	5	ND – 1.8	ND	ND	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
Unregulated Contaminants Testing						
Sulfate (ppm)	None	250	ND – 19	6 – 9	4	Naturally present in the environment.

Units Description:

ND: Not Detected

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

MFL: million fibers per liter, used to measure asbestos concentration

% Positive samples / month: Percent of samples taken monthly that were positive

Violations

Copper

The water from Auburn’s sources does not contain measurable levels of copper. However, copper can leach into your water from building plumbing systems. Copper monitoring of homes with copper plumbing was last conducted in 1993. Monitoring results indicated the copper concentration value exceeded the Action Level, which required treatment improvements. This year Auburn completed construction of two corrosion control facilities to adjust the pH of Auburn’s water and minimize leaching of copper from customer’s water fixtures. Follow-up monitoring will occur in 2003 to assess the effectiveness of the new facilities. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s Disease should consult their personal physician. If you have copper plumbing you can reduce your copper levels by not drinking or cooking with water from your hot tap and by letting your water run a few seconds (until noticeably cooler to the touch) before using it.

Conserving Our Valuable Water Resource



Auburn currently has enough water to meet our maximum demand, yet it is apparent that growth will one day create demands that may exceed the availability of water in the region. In cooperation with all the other water utilities in the region, we encourage our customers to use water wisely.

Cross Connection Control Program: Protecting Our Water System From Contamination

A cross connection is a connection between water pipes and a source of contamination. Examples of cross connections include hose ends submerged in pools, hot tubs or buckets, irrigation systems and most hose-end spray applicators. Cross connections are extremely dangerous because they provide opportunities for contaminating fluids to be pulled back into the water system. To protect our water supply; avoid using hose-end sprayers, maintain an air gap by keeping the hose end above the water surface when filling containers, and install a backflow assembly on irrigation systems. Backflow assemblies require a plumbing permit, must be inspected by a cross connection specialist, and must be tested by a certified tester when installed, and yearly thereafter. For more information or a list of certified testers call the Water Division at 253-931-3064.



Test backflow assemblies every year